



Minutes of the Business Meeting
Southern Regional Cooperative Soil Survey Conference
Tybee Island, GA
June 5, 2002

Maxine Levin served as moderator for the business meeting. Minutes of the 2000 meeting were distributed.

Reports:

IEG-22 report:

Joey Shaw reported for the IEG-22 group. Warren Lynn was the NRCS representative at the IEG-22 business meeting.

Billy Kingery, Mississippi State University, was appointed for a two-year term to the Soil Taxonomy Committee.

Shaw noted that the Southern Regional Cooperative Soil Survey By-Laws need to be amended. The Southern Regional Hydric Soils Committee has been disbanded. The by-laws need to reflect this change.

Mike Vepraskas, North Carolina State University, invited other universities to participate in hosting the Soil Science Institute. Hipple indicated that Washington State will host the next institute. Wayne Hudnall indicated that Louisiana State University would be willing to host the institute.

Shaw called attention to a map of Soils of the South Region compiled by Larry West.

New officers for the IEG-22 group are:

Larry West, University of Georgia, chair

Joey Shaw, Auburn University, secretary

Tom Hallmark, Texas A&M University, vice-chair

NRCS report

Karl Hipple reported the activities of the NRCS business meeting.

Soil Taxonomy Committee: The co-chair of the Soil Taxonomy Committee rotates by MO. Mike Golden, MO-9, is the current co-chair; Roy Vick, MO-14, will be the next co-chair. Craig Ditzler as the National Director for Classification and Standards is the permanent co-chair.

There is a need to continue the South Region Committee on Research Needs. The purpose of the committee is to surface field problems within the region. The following individuals volunteered to serve as the South Region Committee on Research Needs:

Wayne Hudnall, Louisiana State University, will chair
Mike Verprakas, North Carolina State University
Charles Love, MO-15 Team Leader/SSS-Alabama
Warren Lynn, Soil Survey Center

Hipple reported that the NRCS group discussed at length the pros/cons of collecting more soil properties data at the field level. It is a long-standing field problem. The issue seems to be two-fold. 1) There needs to be a clear understanding about what data is to be collected, and 2) There needs to be consistency in the procedures and equipment used to collect the data. A lot of data already exists. The NRCS group makes the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION: The Southern Regional NRCS group recommends that Warren Lynn, Southern Soils Liaison, should review the literature and existing data to identify gaps in existing data and develop a plan that will provide national guidance to improve soil survey data.

Discussion followed. It was pointed out that the measure for soil survey is acres mapped. Collecting field data takes time. Until the national process is altered to count other activities besides acres mapped, there is a problem.

MOTION: Larry West moved that the Southern Regional Cooperative Soil Survey Conference recommends that the soil survey continue to accelerate the proposal to include alternate reporting items. Second by Jerry Daigle.

Discussion followed. There were differences of opinion regarding the value of reporting items other than acres mapped. After listening to the discussion, Larry West withdrew his motion and offered the following:

MOTION: Larry West moved that field soil scientists be encouraged to gather soil properties data; seconded by Darwin Newton.

The motion carried.

Larry West indicated that there had been a lengthy discussion during the meeting relative to Kandic soils. He proposed the following:

MOTION: Larry West moved that the Southern Regional Cooperative Soil Survey group form a committee/task force to gather information and to develop a formal proposal to the Taxonomy Committee relative to Kandic soils in the South. He suggested that Marc Crouch should chair the group. Seconded by Russ Pringle.

The motion carried.

During the presentations, Roy Vick brought up the issue of Umbric Subgroups in Inceptisols. After listening to the presentation, the group agreed that there is an issue but they did not accept the proposed fix. Roy Vick, Bill Craddock, and Kent Clary will develop another proposal.

Larry West suggested that the group needs to work with foresters as much as possible. Foresters have lots of soil data that can be shared. Several individuals spoke of their experiences in working with forest groups. The key seems to be with personal contacts. Once a relationship has been established with the forest industry, there are opportunities to share information.

Mike Lilly extended an invitation for the Southern Regional Cooperative Soil Survey Conference to come to Mississippi in 2004. The group accepted the invitation. As a result of this invitation, Mike Lilly and Billy Kingery will serve on the National Steering Committee for the next National Soils Conference.

Bill Smith, South Carolina, expressed thanks to Larry West and to Edward Ealy for hosting the 2002 conference.

Notes by
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